

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE
CURRENT INFORMATION
TO ALL DMH EMPLOYEES.

Mission of DMH:

Prevention,
Treatment, and
Promotion of
Public Understanding
for Missourians with
mental illnesses,
developmental
disabilities, and
addictions

Vision of DMH:

Hope * Opportunity

Community Inclusion

Missourians
receiving mental
health services will
have the
opportunity to
pursue their dreams
and live their lives as
valued members of
their communities.

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Director's Corner

The guest columnist is Bob Bax, Director of Public and Legislative Affairs.

Governor Nixon pays visit to Department of Mental Health

Governor Jay Nixon took time from his busy schedule to visit the Department of Mental Health Central Office on Monday, March 2. Governor Nixon met with Department Director Keith Schafer and other members of the Department's Executive Team and he expressed his appreciation for the hard work and dedication that all DMH staff have for helping some of our most vulnerable citizens. The Governor also toured the building to meet personally with Central Office employees and thank them for their work.

In the meeting with Executive Team, the Governor was briefed on some of the critical issues facing the Department and the people we serve. The issues include the need to increase access for Missourians to services for persons with addictions, mental illnesses and developmental disabilities. The need to develop more housing and employment options for our clients also was presented, as well as the challenges that our facility staff face at our state hospitals and habilitation centers.

"We are very appreciative of Governor Nixon's interest in moving mental health issues forward," said Dr. Schafer. "He understands our system and our challenges and we are enthused by his leadership."

Governor Nixon is Missouri's 55th Governor. He has served the citizens of Missouri throughout his career in government. To learn more about our Governor, please go to: <http://governor.mo.gov/about/Jay-Nixon.php>



Governor Jay Nixon greets Central Office employee Debbie Meller during his recent visit to the Department.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUGGESTIONS

We would like to take a moment and thank those of you who took time to send us your thoughts on the newsletter. Your opinions are important to us and we appreciate the helpful suggestions that were submitted!



All of the artwork pictured above was entered in the 2009 Director's Creativity Showcase.

2009 Director's Creativity Showcase

The 2009 Director's Creativity Showcase proved to be a success as there were more than 140 submissions of arts and crafts.

There were entries from each of the three divisions: Alcohol and Drug Abuse (ADA), Comprehensive Psychiatric Services (CPS) and Developmental Disabilities (DD).

The Director's Creativity Showcase provides a venue to see the arts and crafts of the people we serve.

Ultimately, the Showcase aims to recognize the abilities of those with disabilities.



Dr. Shafer views some of the artwork

"The talents of our many consumers are amazing," said Dr. Keith Schafer, Director of the Department of Mental Health. "We want to showcase the arts and

crafts of these individuals and give Missourians the chance to see them on display."

The submission breakdown for each of the categories is as follows:

ADA 17 and Under

- 14 submissions

ADA 18+

- 7 submissions

CPS 17 and Under

- 15 submissions

CPS 18+

- 61 submissions

DD 17 and Under

- 1 submissions

DD 18+

- 39 submissions

The Director's Creativity Showcase dates back to 1988. There were a few years when DMH did not host the Showcase. Last year, Dr. Schafer brought the Showcase back to DMH for everyone to enjoy.

Many individuals use their creativity as a way to express themselves or for

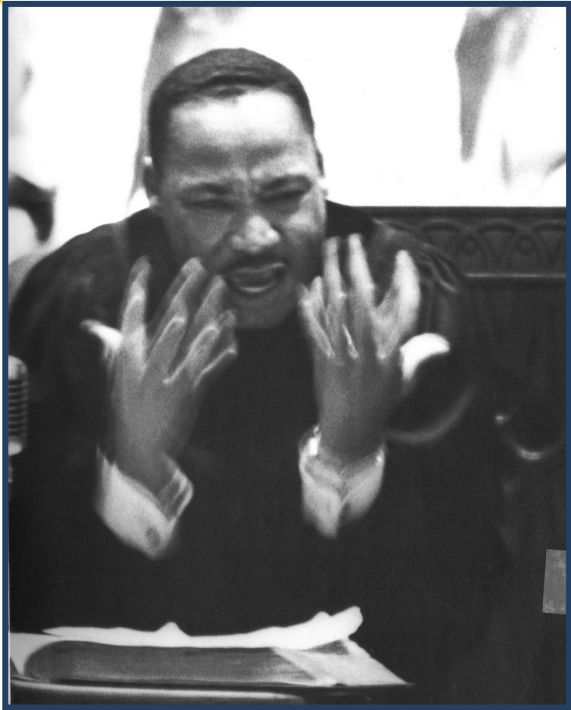
therapeutic reasons.

There are pieces of art that express the struggles of the artist.

All of the artwork will be on display on April 1, 2009, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Many of the arts and crafts are available to purchase. All of the money goes to the artist or crafter.

If you would like more information on the display on April 1, 2009, please contact Kalei Holder in the Office of Public Affairs at Kalei.Holder@dmh.mo.gov.

KRCG-TV came out and did a story on the Showcase. To view this story, please click on <http://www.connectmidmissouri.com/news/story.aspx?id=264252>



REMEMBERING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



On February 4, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered a sermon called “The Drum Major Instinct.” Two months later, on April 4, 1968, Dr. King was killed by an assassin’s bullet. If you have ever wondered what Dr. King thought about his life or how he wanted to be remembered in the event of his death, the answer to your questions can be found in “The Drum Major Instinct.”

The Department of Mental Health invites you to bring your lunch and listen to Dr. King reflect on his life, work, and efforts to create change in a society where people were judged by the color of their skin and not the content of their character.

WHEN: April 3, 2009

WHERE: Department of Mental Health, Central Office
Conference Rooms A and B

TIME: 12 NOON TO 1:15 P.M.

FACILITATOR: DEBRA M. MILES, Assistant General Counsel,
Department of Mental Health

We should remember the lessons from the past as we live in the present and dream about the future.

Debra M. Miles



Employee of the Month

Why is Jesse the EOM?

Jesse Cunningham, Psychiatric Aide at SEMO Mental Health Center, has been selected Department of Mental Health Employee of the Month because of the positive attributes he exemplifies, not only in his job, but in his attitude.

Jesse has been described as a friendly, caring, responsible, reliable and professional employee. He is dedicated to his job and treats it as his career. He goes out of his way to help any staff member that requests his assistance and is respected by all.



Jesse Cunningham
Department of Mental Health
Employee of the Month

There are several instances at SMMHC when other wards throughout the hospital have needed assistance and Jesse has been one of the first to act on the opportunity.

What are Jesse's co-workers saying?

"Jesse would help any person, not only at work and not just staff members and clients, but anybody who needed his help!"

"Jesse is a good person and I really believe he should be recognized for his ability as a Psychiatric Aide and the fact that he strives on a daily basis to be good at what he does."

"Jesse is well-deserving of this award."

DMH DATES TO REMEMBER

March 8.....Daylight Saving's Time Begins
March 20.....First day of Spring
April 1..Mental Health Champions Banquet

Thank you to all DMH employees who helped our clients send in artwork or crafts for the 2009 Director's Creativity Showcase! The Showcase was a huge success and we thank all who helped make it possible!

To attend the banquet, please go to:
<http://www.dmh.mo.gov/news/ChampionBanquetIndividualResponseform.pdf>

The 2009 Mental Health Champions Banquet is April 1, 2009, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City!

Don't forget to stop by and check out the arts and crafts that were submitted for the Director's Creativity Showcase! Several pieces of the arts and crafts will be available to purchase. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. and will close for the arts and crafts at 6:30 p.m.

Please contact Kalei Holder at (573) 751-8135 with any questions.

